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APOTHECARY NETWORK NEEDS IMPROVEMENTS

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The annual trade in drug products amounts to several billion rubles. This is made possible by a large network of apothecary stores, warehouses, and apothecary points. Recently the Board for the Ministry of Public Health USSR studied various operating problems of this large network and drew up some recommendations for its improvements.

It found that the Central Administration for Apothecary Matters was neglecting the expansion and development of this network. However, it noted that many of the defects which came to light during World War II have been eliminated. Categories of medicines have increased over the past few years, and Moscow apothecary stores can now supply the consumer with complex bromide, sulfidine, moraxulfazol, disulfane, methylsulfasiazine, penicillin, and many other products.

Today the apothecary network is administered by a central agency which appears to have no liaison with oblast or rayon agencies of the Public Health Service. However, the Central Administration for Apothecary Affairs is inefficient in the supply of various equipment to its apothecary stores and points. It, therefore, appears necessary to reorganize the administration and character of the apothecary network and to accommodate oblast and rayon public health service, thus improving the general operation of the apothecaries.

The supply organization within the Central Administration for Apothecary Affairs has to be revamped. Many of these problems are being overcome by training the personnel. However, one year after the promulgation of a decree from the All-Union Conference of Apothecary Workers, nothing has been done toward fulfilling the proposals.

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The most pressing problem is administration and planning of the operations of the Central Administration for Apothecary Affairs. There appears to be a complete lack of reason for many of the acts of this Administration. This complaint holds true for the planning of new apothecary stores, as well as for the consignment of supplies to the stores already established.

The training program for future apothecaries also needs reorganization; students studying for the apothecary trade are given the same course of training as pharmacopharmaceutical industry specialists. Leningrad schools appear to be the only ones that have established two courses, one for each specialty.

The Central Scientific-Research Apothecary Institute, Main Administration of Apothecary Affairs USSR, also needs radical reorganization. The curriculum of this institute is organized without considering other schools. Thus, it has listed a course in medicinal herbs, when almost next door is located the All-Union Institute for Medicinal Plants. It is suggested that for efficiency the Central Scientific-Research Apothecary Institute be put under the jurisdiction of the Central Administration for Apothecary Affairs USSR.

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